

I am very concerned about the proposed changes to the media ownership rules being proposed by the FCC to Congress next week. The FCC's charter is specific in its goals to provide diversity of opinion and to make sure that local news and interests are fully represented. The changes in rules, as I understand them, are likely to result in fewer owners (meaning less diversity of opinion) and ownership by nationwide companies who will have no incentive to promote local news and interests. We have already seen a disaster occur in radio with the concentration of sources and the dominance of CLEAR. A diverse media is one of the very cornerstones of successful democracy. The fewer the media sources, the more likely that the government or other power brokers will be able to manipulate the news and public opinion. Some examples of heavy-handed government propaganda in the recent Iraq War should be pointing out the dangers of this to the FCC and to the country as a whole. The FCC is subverting the democratic process in this action, because it has not sought substantive public input on the proposed rule changes. Therefore, Congress will be uninformed of the concerns of its constituency when it has to vote on this very important matter. The FCC needs to alter the proposal or scrap it, since it is in clear violation of the FCC charter.